



# **New DoD Deployment Medical Standards**

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# Overview

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- Change Imperative
- Purpose
- Applicability
- Backfilling Between Services
- General Guidelines
- Specific Medical Conditions
- Waivers/Exemptions



# Change Imperative

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- Service unique medical standards occasionally interfered with inter-service backfilling
- Increasing numbers of civilians/contractors in remote deployed locations
- QDR 4 (April 2006)–
  - “...uniform minimum standards to measure the health...status of deployed personnel do not exist.”
  - “The Force Health Protection Council ...will... identify health...standards based upon the mission requirements of individual components, commands, or unit types.”



# Purpose

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- Sets a **minimum** medical standard for all deploying and deployed personnel
  - All Services
  - All Components
  - Civilians and contractors
- Does **not** alter/replace Service accession, retention, or fitness for duty medical standards
- Does **not** address readiness requirements for deployment



# Applicability

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- All DoD military personnel, civilians and contractors
- Required for all deployments that are:
  - Over 30 days duration
  - Outside the Continental United States
  - To a location without a fixed MTF
- May apply standards to other deployments based on risk
- Does not apply to shipboard operations (Navy standards apply)



# Backfilling Between Services

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- Inter-service backfill augmentees must meet the medical standards of the gaining command
  - Special missions will have special requirements
    - Unique operational standards
    - Unique medical standards
  - Service and Unit standards may vary
- It is the responsibility of the losing Service and command to ensure that the augmentee meets the unique standards of the position



# General Guidelines

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- Personnel with existing medical conditions may deploy if ALL of the following conditions are met:
  - The condition is stable and unlikely to worsen during deployment
  - Worsening of the condition unlikely to cause:
    - Grave medical outcome
    - Negative mission impact
  - Required ongoing health care available in theater
  - Required medications do not need special handling or storage and are available in theater
  - No need for duty limitations precluding the performance of duty



# Medical Conditions Which Normally Preclude Deployment

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- Conditions which prevent the individual from wearing personal protective equipment
- Conditions that prohibit immunizations or use of force health protection prescription products
  - Excluded: anthrax and smallpox vaccine, and the use of primaquine
- Chronic medical conditions requiring frequent clinical visits or significant limitation of physical activity
- Conditions requiring durable medical equipment or appliances not available in theater
- Unresolved acute illnesses that would impair duty performance





# Cardiovascular Conditions Which Normally Preclude Deployment

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- Symptomatic coronary artery disease
- History of myocardial infarction within 1 year of deployment
- History of coronary artery bypass graft, coronary artery angioplasty, carotid endarterectomy, arterial stenting, or aneurysm repair within 1 year of deployment
- Dysrhythmias/arrhythmias that are symptomatic or require medical or electrophysiologic control
- Heart failure



# **Mental Health Conditions Which Normally Preclude Deployment**

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- Psychotic and bipolar disorders
- Disorders under treatment with less than 3 months of demonstrated stability
- Disorders with residual symptoms that impair duty performance
- Conditions that pose a substantial risk for deterioration or recurrence of impairing symptoms in a deployed environment
- Any conditions that require treatment with antipsychotics, lithium, or anticonvulsants



# Medical Conditions Which Normally Preclude Deployment

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- Cancer, currently under treatment
- Precancerous lesions that have not been treated and/or evaluated
- Conditions pending non-elective surgery
- Postoperative patients undergoing rehabilitation
- Any musculoskeletal condition that significantly impairs performance of duties



# Medical Conditions Which Normally Preclude Deployment

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- Recurrent loss of consciousness for any reason
- Any medical condition that could result in sudden incapacitation (seizure disorders, diabetes mellitus, type I or II)
- Uncontrolled hypertension
- Asthma with an FEV-1 < 50% treated, that has required hospitalization 2 times in past 12 months, or that requires daily systemic steroids
- Active TB or known blood borne diseases that may be transmitted to others during a deployment
- HIV positive with the presence of clinical illness or immunological deficiency



# Medical Conditions Which Normally Preclude Deployment

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- Pregnancy
- Hearing loss to the extent that an individual could not safely perform duties
- Loss of vision to the extent that the individual could not safely perform duties
- Individuals who are likely to require dental treatment or reevaluation within 12 months



# Waivers To The Deployment Medical Standards

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- Not required if the member has met a Medical Evaluation Board and been returned to duty without restrictions
- Requested by operational line commander
- Granted by the Combatant Commander
- Combatant Command Surgeons and Senior In-theater Medical Authorities advise Combatant Commander
- Combatant Command Surgeons must document and archive all waivers



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